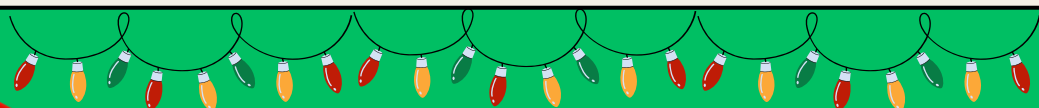


December  
2024



## A Note from Rev. Katrina



First  
Presbyterian  
Church of Alma



Christmas and Advent are times in which theologians love to pull out the big, theological sounding words. We remember that Jesus is also called “Emmanuel,” which means “God-with-us.” Mary is called the “Theotokos” in Greek. This is a word that means “God-bearer.” Advent is a Latin word that means “to come.” We spend the season before Christmas waiting for not only Jesus’ birth, but also his return to create a world that is whole.

You might have seen the signs that say, “Keep Christ in Christmas!” These always make me chuckle just a little bit because my college Greek comes back to me every time. Sometimes this is a political statement about the busyness and consumerism of Christmas, but sometimes it is also a response to seeing “Merry X-mas!” The Greek scholar in me finds this interesting because the Greek word for Christ is Christos - and Greek, like Hebrew, uses a different alphabet, so the first letter in the word “Christos” actually looks like an X.

So, why is it important to tell you about these words? For one, I love these words. “God-with-us” and “God-bearer” are powerful images of the ways in which God goes with us, and also that we bear the image of God in the world. Secondly, I think it is important to remember that the story of this infant began in a different land, in a different time, and a different language was spoken. To me, it causes a sacred pause that reminds us that there is much we don’t know, much we have yet to learn, and that God speaks to us across time, place, and language. Selah.



495 Charles Ave., Alma, MI 48801 | [www.firstpres.net](http://www.firstpres.net)



**Art of Christmas December  
8th!**

**It will be a Winter  
Wonderland!**

**Please Join us for a light  
lunch in Fellowship Hall and  
make a few ornaments for the  
tree.**

**Sponsored by the Deacons for  
Fellowship and  
Congregational Life.**



**Jeffrey Elsea 12/01**

**Joe Setterlund 12/01**

**Tadd Godfrey 12/12**

**Sarah Horn 12/12**

**Tadala Store 12/21**

**Tawona Store 12/23**

**Laura Allman-Knieper 12/27**

**Bobby Deel 12-27**

**Carlene Lyon 12/28**

**Maggie Selmon 12/28**

**Sheryle Dixon 12/29**

**Merida Fahey 12/29**



Thank you to Building and  
Grounds for installing a rail  
to the choir loft!

***Happy  
Anniversary***

**Ben & Annerose White 12/6**

**Dave Walsh & Nancy Gallagher 12/26**



# DECEMBER SPECIAL OFFERING

**The special offering for December will go to the Christmas Joy Offering. This offering goes to assistance to current and retired church workers in stressful situations. It also supports developing future leaders in seminary and colleges equipping students of color. Please consider giving to this fund!**







We will be caroling at the Masonic home and Arbor Grove on Dec 19. We will begin at 10:30 am at Masonic and then go to Arbor Grove!! All are welcome to share the Joy of Christmas music and stewardship to our members in these homes!!



Christmas Concert Friday,  
December 20 at 6pm! Come  
hear Ebay Merlin play!

## Start saving those mittens and hats

We will, again, have a mitten tree along Superior Street in December for *Come Home to Alma for the Holidays*! Start setting aside mittens and hats for people of all ages so we can give them out during the festivities. We'll be collecting them in November





# DECEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Advent 1	2 11am Session Every Monday 9:30-12pm Linus Ladies	3 10am Finance 3-4:30pm Sabbath Group	4 Every Wednesday 6:30-7:30pm Choir Practice	5 10am Outreach Every Thursday 5:30 Community Cafe	6	7
8 Advent 2 Art of Christmas	9	10 Presbytery 1-3:30pm Food Pantry 3-4:30pm Sabbath Group 5:30pm Child Advocacy	11	12 10am Building and Grounds	13 Come Home to Alma	14
15 Advent 3	16 6:30 Session	17 1-3:30pm Food Pantry 3-4:30pm Sabbath Group	18	19 10:30 Caroling	20 Christmas Concert with Ebay Merlin 6pm	21
22 Advent 4	23 Office Closed	24 No Food Pantry Office Closed Christmas Eve 7pm	25 Office Closed	26 Office Closed	27 Office Closed	28 Office Closed
29 Rev. Katrina on vacation	30 Office Closed	31 No Food Pantry Office Closed	Office Closed	Office Closed	Office Closed	Office Closed